

# H I S T O R Y

of

MAYNARD COUNCIL, No. 2121, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS.

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by

Ralph L. Sheridan, P.G.K., F.D.D.

4-30-1920

During the latter part of 1919 and early 1920, in the period immediately following World War I, many of our local boys who had been in the armed forces during the war, and had witnessed first-hand the splendid manner in which the Knights of Columbus, through its secretaries had operated in the various camps and cantonments throughout the United States and Europe, were joining the ranks of the Knights of Columbus through the councils in Hudson and Concord. They were all anxious to become a part of so worthy an organization. The Rev. Edward F. Crowley, then pastor of St. Bridget's church, believed the time was ripe for the organizing of an outstanding Catholic fraternal group in Maynard. He enlisted the aid of an old friend and classmate Judge William A. Day, who was then the State Deputy of the Massachusetts State Council, Knights of Columbus.

The first step toward the formation of a local council was taken in Riverside Hall(now Gruber's block)Main Street, on Sunday afternoon, February 22, 1920, when more than two hundred men of St. Bridget's parish heard Judge Day give a history of the order from its inception at New Haven, Connecticut, in March of 1882, to the present time. Richard B. McSweeney of Concord, Grand Knight of Concord Council #287, was present and in his remarks said he would assist in every way with the organizing of a council in Maynard. Rev. Fr. Crowley presided. Judge Day appointed Grand Knight McSweeney as provisional deputy, and he immediate-



ly got in touch with national headquarters at New Haven, Connecticut. He also announced there would be another meeting the following Sunday. An announcement had been made at the Masses on Sunday morning which resulted in the large and enthusiastic meeting.

On Sunday, February 29, at a meeting held in Riverside Hall, a temporary organization was formed. Sylvester S. Sullivan was named temporary chairman; Roy V. McCormack, temporary secretary; and Frank J. McCarron, temporary treasurer. One hundred and two applications were received the first day the charter was thrown open. Committees were named, as follows:- "To Bring in Name for Council":-John E. Haunon, Frank J. McCarron, Patrick J. Sullivan, Frank L. McCormack and Cornelius J. Lynch; "For Permanent Location"--Bartholomew J. Coughlin, James J. Morgan, Bernard H. Garrigan, John H. Horan and Walter E. White; "To Prepare for Institution of Council"--John H. Horan, George F. Lynch, Roy V. McCormack, John H. Sheridan, Frank S. Fearn and Frank L. McCormack; "To Continue Membership Drive"--John J. Gallagher, Dennis E. White, Patrick A. McGrath, Philip W. Allard, George F. Lynch, James B. Farrell, John A. O'Leary, John A. Moynihan, James C. Mahoney, Sylvester S. Sullivan, William P. Scully and Thomas F. Maley. Richard B. McSweeney, provisional deputy, was in charge of details.

With the full co-operation of Judge Day, Fr. Crowley and Mr. McSweeney, and through the untiring efforts of Bro. Robert L. Sheridan (then a member of Hudson Council #131, and since a past Grand Knight of Potomac Council #433, Washington, D.C., and a past Faithful Navigator, Fourth Degree, and a past State Warden of the District of Columbia State Council); Bro. Roy V. McCormack (then a member of Hudson Council, and since a past Grand Knight of Hyannis Council #2525); Bro. Harold V. Sheridan of Concord Council #287 and Bro. Patrick H. Murphy of Hudson Council,



in processing applications and completing volumes of clerical work required, the new council was instituted at Riverside Hall, Tuesday April 13, 1920, with the granting of a charter by the Supreme Council at New Haven, Connecticut. The charter was closed with a membership of two hundred and two. It was to be known as MAYNARD COUNCIL, No. 2121, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. This was the name selected by the committee and approved by the members. The first regular meeting of the new council was held at this time. It was called to order by Richard B. McSweeney of Concord, who was representing District Deputy Philip H. Gibbons of Clinton. The officers of Hudson Council under Grand Knight Walter Lyons conferred the first degree on one hundred and fifty new members. After the initiatory exercises the new council was duly instituted and election of officers took place. Timothy B. Moynihan was chosen as Grand Knight. His chosen associate officers were - Patrick A. McGrath, deputy grand knight; Sylvester S. Sullivan, chancellor; Thomas F. Maley, warden; Frank A. Brayden, Financial secretary; Roy V. McCormack, recording secretary; Frank L. McCormack, treasurer; Philip W. Allard, inside guard; William J. Smith, outside guard; James J. Morgan, advocate; Bartholomew J. Coughlin, Patrick J. Sullivan and Frank S. Frue, trustees. Rev. Edward F. Crowley was appointed chaplain. John E. Hannon was appointed lecturer.

On April 15, 1920 the second degree was conferred on the class at Masonic Hall by the officers of Concord Council under the direction of Grand Knight Richard B. McSweeney.

Sunday, April 18, 1920, two classes of seventy-five each, received the Major degree in afternoon and evening sessions at Riverside Hall. District Deputy Philip H. <sup>Gibbons</sup> ~~Bisbons~~ and staff from Clinton exemplified the afternoon degree. District Deputy Edward J. Brandon and staff



from Cambridge was in charge of the evening exercises. Maynard council as host provided supper to forty-one members of visiting degree teams at the Assabet House(now the site of the United States Post Office on Main Street)on Sunday evening. The visitor were loud in praise of the splendid spirit shown and paid particular compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bell, proprietors, for the delicious meal.

The degrees were very impressive and were attended by visiting knights from miles around. Refreshments were provided for visiting knights at Masonic Hall. Committee in charge of this feature,-Edward F. Ledgard, chairman; Thomas F. Maley, Patrick A. McGrath, James C. Mahoney, John H. Horan, John J. Gallagher, and a corps of assistants.

At that time there were forty(41)One Maynard men in Hudson Council, No. 131; eleven(11)in Concord Council, No. 287; one(1) in Clinton Council, No. 1701; one(1) in Whip City Council, No. 100, Westfield, Massachusetts, and one(1) in Delavan Council, No. 1612, Delavan, Wisconsin. These members combined with the one hundred and thirty-two (132)candidates who received the Major degree on Sunday, April 19, 1920, constituted the Charter members of Maynard Council, No. 2121, Knights of Columbus, Maynard, Massachusetts.



The following were Charter members of Maynard Council and were in the classes receiving the Major degree on Sunday, April 19, 1920:

Rev. Edward F. Crowley	James J. Hilferty	James M. McCarthy
Rev. John J. Sweeney	Edward F. Hoffman	Hugh McGovern
Philip W. Allard	Edward S. Johnston	Michael F. McNamara
Loreto Arcieri	John J. Johnston	Joseph M. O'Brien
Cham Ayotte	William J. Johnston, Jr.	William H. O'Brien
Arthur V. Bariteau	William J. Johnston, Sr.	Michael O'Connell
Francis R. Bennett	Charles B. Hart	Patrick O'Dea
Jeremiah W. Bradley	Charles E. Irwin	Michael T. O'Keefe
Frank A. Brayden	George E. Kaler	John A. O'Leary
Joseph Byrne	Patrick J. Kane	Harold C. Peterson
Leo T. Byrne	John H. Keegan	William A. Poyart
John C. Brayden	John J. Keegan	Harland W. Powers
Cornelius J. Callahan	Edward J. King	Harold P. Powers
Alfred S. Carey	Howard F. King	John E. Punch
William F. Casey	Thomas J. King	Columbus F. Rainville
John E. Comeau	David R. Kinsley	Louis H.P. Richard
James H. Connolly	Thomas J. Lawler	Leo J. Roche
Thomas W. Connolly	Arley B. Lawrence	William P. Scully
Daniel P. Connors	Magloire F. Lesage	John H. Sexton
John Connors	Louis F. Leveroni	George D. Sharpe
Daniel A. Coughlan	Michael F. Louka	James W. Sheridan
James A. Coughlan	Daniel W. Lowney	Joseph E. Sheridan
Bartholomew J. Coughlin	Harold A. Lyons	John F. Smith
George H. Creighton	Michael E. Lynch	Joseph T. Smith
Edward Cuddy	John P. Mahon	Patrick J. Sullivan
Edward D. Doherty	Frank J. Maley	James V. Sweeney
Thomas A. Doyle	John H. Maley	Thomas A. Sweeney
John J. Driscoll	James H. Mooney	William A. Sweeney
John T. Durkin	John W. Moore	Thomas H. Tierney
John J. Dwyer	Francis G. Moran	Daniel W. Timlege
Louis W. Evers	James J. Morgan	Eden J. Tobin
Nelson A. Fairbanks	William A. Morrill	Henry J. Tobin
Andrew J. Fardy	Noble T. Morton	James J. Tobin
Joseph J. Farrell	John A. Moynihan	William J. Tobin
Patrick J. Flynn	John H. Moynihan, St.	Charles C. Visocchi
William H. Fornier	John H. Moynihan, Jr.	Joseph Visocchi
James R. Gallagher	Francis J. Murphy	Stanley F. Vcdoklys
William D. Gallagher	Timothy A. Murphy	Emmett J. Wall
Bernard H. Carrigan	John Murray	Nicholas J. Whalen
John T. Gibbons	John J. Murray	Arthur J. White
John E. Hannon	Michael Murray	Deonis E. White
Thomas Hearon	Robert I. MacKenzie	George E. White
John F. Higgins	Frank J. McCarron	Joseph A. White
Martin J. Higgins	Francis L. McCarthy	Fred J. Wilder



The following were members of other councils and by transfer became Charter members of Maynard Council:

From Hudson Council, No. 131

John F. Carpenter	Edward F. Ledgard	Roy V. McCormack
Edward J. Coughlin	Edmund P. Lowney	Patrick A. McGrath
Joseph P. Dineen	William P. Lowney	Frank S. Prue
William F. Driscoll	Cornelius J. Lynch	Edward E. Puffer
James B. Farrell	George F. Lynch	Robert L. Sheridan
Frank S. Fearn	James C. Mahoney	Leonard J. Smith
David J. Foley	Thomas F. Maley	Thomas V. Smith
John J. Gallagher	Vincent J. Maley	William J. Smith
John H. Moran	William J. Maley	Sylvester S. Sullivan
Joseph W. Kaler	Harold J. Morgan	William J. Tobin
John J. Kane	Frank D. Moynihan	Albert J. Whalen
Frank W. Kelly	Timothy B. Moynihan	James E. Whalen
William Moynihan	Patrick H. Murphy	William J. Murray
	Frank L. McCormack	

From Concord Council, No. 287

George J. Anelons	Frank L. O'Brien	Harold V. Sheridan
Edward J. Flaherty	James Rady	Louis E. Sullivan
Thomas J. King	Frank C. Sheridan	Leo C. White
Francis A. May		Walter E. White

From Clinton Council, No. 1701

John H. Sheridan

From Whip City Council, No. 100

Frank M. Lawton

From Delavan Council, No. 1612

William C. Creeley

Timothy B. Moynihan, was re-elected for a second term as Grand Knight, and he has been followed in succession by:-

Patrick A. McGrath	- 1921-24	J. Francis Cleary	- 1947-48
Sylvester S. Sullivan	- 1924-25	Robert E. Riley	- 1948
Harold J. Morgan	- 1925-26	Richard T. White	- 1948-50
Joseph E. Byrne	- 1926-28	Richard J. Flaherty	- 1950-51
Ralph L. Sheridan	- 1928-29	William F. McGann	- 1951-52
William J. Smith	- 1929-30	Philip H. Finan	- 1952-53
John E. Hannon	- 1930-32	Harold W. Johnston	- 1953-54
James B. Farrell	- 1932-34	James C. Tierney	- 1954-56
Arley B. Lawrence	- 1934-36	Alphonse J. Paul	- 1956-58
Thomas J. Luggan	- 1936-38	Joseph P. Cotter	- 1958-60
Edward J. Hannon	- 1938-40	Richard J. King	- 1960-61
Leo F. Mullin	- 1940-42	Eugene L. Charpentier	- 1961-62
Robert E. Riley	- 1942	Alfons W. Krysiemiel	- 1962-63
Henry T. Hanson	- 1942-44	Paul <del>D.</del> Boothroyd	- 1963-65
Joseph E. Byrne	- 1944-45	Alfred P. Ramos	- 1965-66
Joseph E. Boothroyd	- 1945-47	Robert A. Smale	- 1966-67
		Raymond L. Letomia	- 1967-68
		Benny M. Sofka	- 1968-69
		Joseph P. Cotter	1969-70



Meetings were held for seven years at Masonic Hall; seven years at the Riverside Co-operative Association Building, until driven out by fire which destroyed the entire upper part of the building on January 30, 1936. From then until March 1937 meetings were held at the United Co-operative Society Building on Main Street.

From the inception of Maynard Council, its membership had set as a goal "to some day have their own home." For that purpose the Knights of Columbus Building Association, Incorporated, was set up within the council, and consisted of the entire membership of the council. By-laws were drawn up and approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Officers were elected, consisting of the grand knight and deputy grand knight as president and vice-president respectively, and a secretary, treasurer and fifteen(15) directors. Many a heated session took place over the purchase of various properties in the town. The Amory Maynard property(now the location of the Sear's Block, Main Street) was lost by one vote. Several other places on both Main and Nason Streets were seriously considered.

Immediately following the destructive fire in 1936 steps were taken to purchase the site from the Riverside Co-Operative Association. As soon as this was accomplished various architects were consulted and a number of plans submitted before the committee agreed to award the contract for the "KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING" to the Thomas F. Hurley Construction Company of Marlborough, Massachusetts. Construction was begun on November 1, 1936. The directors of the Building Association at the time were -- Thomas J. Duggan, president; Michael J. Veleno, vice-president; Daniel F. Connors, treasurer; James C. Mahoney, secretary; Philip W. Allard, John J. Driscoll, James B. Farrell, John E. Hannon



Arley B. Lawrence, Harold J. Morgan, Ralph L. Sheridan, William J. Smith, Walter T. Tierney and Nicholas J. Whalen, directors.

The fondest hope of Maynard Council was realized on Sunday, March 14, 1937, almost seventeen years from the date of the first meeting of the council, with the dedication of the new "KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING". Thomas J. Duggan, Grand Knight, was in charge of the ceremonies, which were attended by nearly three hundred members of the Order. The speakers for the occasion were Supreme Director Judge John E. Swift of Valencia Council, No. 80, Milford (who later became Supreme Knight); State Deputy Patrick J. Moynihan of John J. Williams Council, No. 1308, Roslindale; District Deputy Thomas J. McLaughlin of North Cambridge Council, No. 269; Rt. Rev. Edward P. Crowley of Hyde Park, who was the first Chaplain of Maynard Council; Rev. D. Edward O'Bryan, pastor of St. Bridget's parish; Rev. John A. Dziok, pastor of St. Casimir's; Rev. James P. Sherry and Rev. Charles Hennihan of St. Bridget's; and Charles E. Irwin, Exalted Ruler, Maynard Lodge of Elks, and also a charter member of Maynard council. Other invited guests were the Grand Knights of Concord, Hudson, Marlborough and Framingham councils. Open house was held in the afternoon for members of the order and in the evening for the public. The building was appraised by all as an excellent choice for such an ideal location, not only to serve as a home for Maynard council, but also as a beauty spot for the Town of Maynard. It is two-storied brick veneered with a large store on the Mason Street front. The second floor is entered from the Summer Street side, through a spacious and attractive ~~and~~ lobby. It consists of a hall with a seating capacity for two hundred and thirty, equipped with a small stage. Also the clubrooms, consisting of lobby, cloakrooms, lounging room, card room, kitchen and auxiliary rooms. The hall can be rented for most any occasion, such as--- meet-



ings, dances, showers, wedding receptions, etc.

Maynard Council has participated in every local civic affair, such as anniversaries, parades, drives, etc., and has responded to every call for assistance within its means, whether it be financial, physical or material. Its membership proudly boasts of many of the town's civic leaders throughout its entire history.

During World War II twenty(26)six members of the council served in the armed forces of our country. One of them Brother Chester G. Carson, made the Supreme Sacrifice. He was killed in action in Germany in November 1944.

HONOR ROLL

WORLD WAR-II

James C. Buscemi	John F. May
*Chester G. Carson	John H. Murphy
Raymond Crowley	John C. Nowick
Francisco S. DiGrappa	Alphonse J. Paul
John J. Duggan	Robert E. Riley
Robert B. Duggan	Joseph P. Schnair, Jr.
Edward E. Fearn	Albert J. Sullivan
+John E. Keegan	Charles E. Sullivan
Evald Johnson	Daniel H. Sullivan
Harold W. Johnston	James V. Sullivan
William H. Larson	Benny M. Sofka
Edward J. Ledgard	George E. Whalen
*Killed in action	
+Also in World War I	

Four members of the council have been honored with the title of District Deputy:

John J. Donohue	- 1927-1931
Patrick A. McGrath	- 1937-1939
Joseph E. Boothroyd	- 1947-1949
Ralph L. Sheridan	- 1958-1961



Several members have received the honors of the Fourth Degree. Three have served as Faithful Navigator of Edward F. McSweeney General Assembly:

Arley B. Lawrence

Joseph E. Boothroyd

Harold W. Johnston

The most honored member of the council is Brother Joseph E. Boothroyd, past Grand Knight, former District Deputy, former Faithful Navigator, Fourth Degree, and has held every office in the Massachusetts State Council from State Auditor through State Deputy. Also, Master of the Fourth Degree, ~~Western~~ Massachusetts *District No. 2.*

There are at present one hundred and twenty-five members in the council, of whom sixteen are Charter members.

In 1958, a ladie's auxiliary to the council was organized. It is now known as St. Christopher's Guild and its purpose is to engage in spiritual, cultural, educational, charitable and social activities.